

BRADWELL PARISH COUNCIL



Public Meeting Bradwell War Memorial Hall 28/05/2024 1930pm

District Councillor Andy Nash opened the meeting at 1930pm, he introduced himself along with the five members present from Bradwell Parish Council. These were Cllr Downing (Chairman) Cllr Cornish (Vice chairman), Cllr Lancaster, Cllr Salisbury, and the Clerk Vanessa Ball.

Cllr Nash thanked everyone for attending the meeting, which was well attended by residents from Bradwell and those from neighbouring villages.

He predominately wanted to understand what the problems for the village and its residents were and he wanted to work together as a community to try to solve them. This was going to be a very stressful time and would impact many individuals as well as businesses who would not only lose passing trade, but potentially their business due to the huge upheaval this was going to cause. The road closure was in fact going to affect every person who attended the meeting, in terms of time, mileage, cost, labour, loss of trade etc.

Cllr Nash reiterated that the road closure was not the responsibility of the Parish Council nor Derbyshire Dales District Council, and the meeting held next week on June 4th would be a drop-in session held by Derbyshire County Council. The drop in would include staff from the Bus Services and Highways to answer specific questions and concerns and Cllr Nash advised residents to ask the questions there that he might not have the answers to.

Cllr Nash reported that on the 17th June work would commence for a 12-week period to carry out essential and substantial repairs on a 23m stretch of wall at Brough. DCC were optimistic the work would be completed sooner than this but if there was a heavy downpour of rain this could potentially cause a lot of problems, therefore the contingency plan of 12 weeks was devised. To complete this work would involve heavy machinery meaning that there would also be no pedestrian access either which would also cause more issues. The workforce would be carrying out the repairs six days a week and as soon as they were finished the road would be reopened.

The road would be closed between the end of Stretfield and into Brough, however Eyres Mill would be open as usual, and the bus will still be stopping at The Travellers Rest.

DCC cannot leave the road as it is now, as the chances are the road will wash away and due to the difficult financial state the council is in, there would be no money to fix this if it were to happen. Options have been discussed between Cllr Downing, Cllr Nash and the chairperson at Hope including plans for the children attending Hope Valley College.

Unfortunately, Eccles Lane is not the best option, and even though adopting a one way route had been discussed it is not a viable choice. One of the biggest concerns was how would Emergency Services attend, and Cllr Nash reported that he was working with them to

provide a solution, but as of yet there was no answer. A resident asked if it was a possibility that there could be standby ambulances in the Hope Valley in case of emergency.

As well as this stretch of road at Brough being closed for a 12-week period, Cllr Nash reported that the Grindleford to Hathersage route would also be undergoing major work at the same time and would be closed to HGVs and buses. Cars would still be able to access the road, but any larger vehicles would need to take a detour through Froggatt.

Other suggestions for vehicle access included the route to Abney but this was such a narrow, tight road that speed restrictions would need to be put in place as any user unfamiliar of the road might travel along and cause accidents.

Cllr Nash opened the meeting up to questions and wanted to hear from residents about the problems the road closure was going to cause, and to ask what could be done to alleviate some of the stress that would be caused from this.

The main discussions from this question-and-answer sessions were as follows

Signage

This would need to start before vehicles especially HGVs and other wagons arrived at Brough as it would prove very difficult trying to turn around at the last minute. There would need to be signage at The Anchor Crossroads before vehicles even got into the village.

Signage would also be required at the start of Eccles Lane to advise that this track was not suitable for lorries and to prevent large vehicles from using it. this was essential to prevent an accident!

Extra signage would need to be considered on Granby Road, Outland Head Road and Jeffrey Lane. HGVs were increasingly trying to get down these very narrow roads and getting stuck, a resident complained that their wall had already been knocked down by one of these vehicles. One of the main issues was lorries were following their SATNAVS which did not consider the narrow and winding restrictions on the roads.

The signage that was placed would need to include "Businesses open as usual" as road closed was not enough, it would discourage visitors and people may assume Bradwell wasn't open.

A resident asked if communication could take place between council and the quarries such as Walker Minerals to ensure all drivers would be fully aware that there is no route through Bradwell.

If HGVs chose to ignore the sign and caused any damage, Cllr Nash asked if residents could gather evidence in photographic form and send them to the Clerk.

Eccles Lane

Eccles Lane is a treasured resource, and the worry was that because it would be used more frequently this would result in damage to the road, verges and drains. After the last episode, the lane was destroyed by vehicles, and residents especially those who live on it asked if DDC were going to carry out the repairs.

Eccles is only a country lane and it is not fit for the purpose of a diversion route. It was a concern that there would be an accident because unfamiliar road users would come down the lane perhaps at speed and not understand the lane. It is narrow with few passing places as well as being used by pedestrians, cyclists and horses.

It was also mentioned that Eccles Lane is classed as an unadopted road and essentially users were travelling along it at their own risk rendering their insurance void. Cllr Nash advised residents to consult their own insurers.

Residents who walked frequently were concerned that they would not be able to get to Hope safely, the question was asked if Vincent Works would be willing to allow pedestrian access through whilst the work was being carried out and Cllr Salisbury reported that he had approached them but they had refused on the basis of insurance and it wasn't safe for residents to be walking through the works as it was a busy site.

There needed to be a safe alternative walking route to allow passage to Hope and it was asked if any of the fields would be allowed to be used as a way of access. Cllr Nash said he would check if Severn Trent would allow the use of their field during the works.

A resident asked if the road through Eccles was going to be closed during this period for tree work, as Mark Chapman from The Happy Tree Company had been granted permission to close the lane for 6 weeks to complete this work. This work would need to be rescheduled if it was planned for the same time.

Businesses

The road closure was going to have a huge impact and expense on businesses and one of the major concerns was the loss of business, income and customer it would cause. It was asked if information and updates could be given by DCC so that businesses could try and plan as they would have to arrange staff and supplies.

Cllr Nash asked that residents support the local businesses during this time and reemphasized the message of eat local and shop local.

Lynne at The Shoulder of Mutton was offering a 10% discount to local residents and Richard and Samantha from The Bowling Green said that they would also do the same.

The emphasis was also placed again on signage by DCC to support the local businesses, and the placement and message on these would be crucial and important.

A business owner asked if there would be any reimbursement from DCC to the businesses who would suffer due to lack of income, but unfortunately this hasn't been offered. Cllr Nash would raise the issue with DDC of helping with business rates and costs etc during this period.

Carnival week was also going to be affected, and for businesses in the village this is often a very busy period and generates a good income. Carnival would still go ahead, with a resident asking if the work could be halted for the week, but essentially this would then put the work behind, and it was important that the focus was on getting the work done as quickly as possible.

Other comments

A resident asked if printed maps would be made available of the alternative routes, this would be important for those who couldn't use a computer or didn't have the internet.

DC Cllr Nash also reminded residents that network one was the website that listed all the disruptions.

A resident said that the breakdown in communication and DCC not providing the correct information when it was required has led to a lack of trust in them, and a lot of residents had

lost confidence in DCC. It was important that people got the answers they required and were given accurate information.

Another resident expressed concern over the plans for shuttle buses, claiming that they just didn't work, because the main adjoining buses were often on a timetable and weren't willing to wait for the shuttle if it was late. They often left before passengers had the chance to board. This therefore rendered the service pointless and useless. If this was going to be an option it was imperative that it is run properly as many residents particularly those that don't drive rely on the buses for work and appointments.

A member of Bamford Parish Council attended the meeting and reported that it would not just be Bradwell that would be affected by the road closure, but other villages as well. He asked if a culvert over the river had been considered, but Cllr Nash advised that this question was better to be answered by DCC although he felt the character of the river needed to be preserved and this wasn't a suitable option.

The question was asked if a day-to-day programme or works could be provided or progress reports and Cllr Nash advised to ask DCC if this would be something they could provide, it was suggested that a site manager or equivalent could provide a weekly update to residents.

A resident asked if there was a way to get MPs involved, unfortunately due to the election, we have now entered a period of heightened sensitivity and MPs hoping for re-election are unable to carry out any activity that might affect public support for their party.

Solutions and how Parish Council can help

Cllr Nash reiterated how important it was that the community of Bradwell came together during this period to help each other. This might mean providing vehicles through car sharing or helping out with shopping or appointments. There was a village WhatsApp group called Bradwell Lift Share and he encouraged residents to make use of this group. He also encouraged residents to talk to their neighbours and friends about ways in which we could help each other.

It was important during this period that the village was publicised as much as possible, via social media, the website noticeboards, signage, and local newspapers. An advert of sorts could be placed within the Peak Advertiser to help promote the village. It was also essential that any information placed on social media was shared by residents and Cllr Nash suggested a "Bradwell is Open" Campaign.

Cllr Downing reported that there is money available to fund a minibus, but Parish Council would need to ensure there was a requirement for this.

For those that didn't engage with social media, it was agreed that the Bradda.org would be kept updated with news.

The important message was that as a village Bradwell doesn't want to lose any of its facilities as this will affect its character, therefore residents need to do as much as they can to support them and each other. Whilst a lot of the issues are out of DDDC and Bradwell Parish Councils control, we will do as much as we can to support the village and each other.

Cllr Nash thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting closed at 2040pm. These minutes will be made available to the public.

(for reference DDDC is the abbreviation for Derbyshire Dales District Council and DCC is Derbyshire County Council)

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